

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00570 111138Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01

/133 W

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R 110951Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 961

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET ROLE IN FUTURE ME NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIAL COMMENT IN HUNGARIAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS ON VISIT OF SOVIET FONMIN GROMYKO TO CAIRO AND DAMASCUS MARCH 7-8 EMPHASIZES THAT NO STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE ME CONFLICT WITHOUT FULL PARTICIPATION OF USSR. ARTICLES SEEM TO BARE SOVIET CONCERN THAT THEIR SPECIAL POSITION IN ME VIS-A-VIS ARAB SOCIALIST COUNTRIES MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED SOMEWHAT AS RESULT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT ACTIVITIES IN ME. END SUMMARY.

2. HSWP DAILY "NEPSZABADSAG" MARCH 8 CARRIED AUTHORITY EDITORIAL ON TRIP OF SOVIET FONMIN GROMYKO AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 00570 111138Z

ME PEACE ARRANGEMENTS. EMPHASIZING THAT NO STEPS

SHOULD BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE ME CONFLICT WITHOUT FULL PARTICIPATION OF USSR, EDITORIAL REMINDS ARABS THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THEM IN THEIR RIGHTFUL DEMANDS AND CITES SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN ECONOMIC (E.G. ASWAN DAM, STEEL COMBINE AT HELOUAN IN EGYPT, EUPHRATES BARRAGE SYSTEM IN SYRIA) AND MILITARY ("SUPPLYING ARAB ARMIES WITH EXCELLENT WEAPONS IN WAR LAST OCTOBER") SPHERES. CLAIMS USSR THROUGH USE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE AND ITS RESOLUTE STAND AGAINST STIRRING UP WAR HYSTERIA ENFORCED CEASE-FIRE AND BROUGHT AGGRESSOR TO GENEVA CONFERENCE TALBE. ADDS THAT "BESIDES RESULTS ACHIEVED BY ARABS ON BATTLEFIELD AND EMPLOYMENT OF "OIL WEAPON", IT WAS THIS CONSISTENT ATTITUDE WHICH MADE POSSIBLE FOR EGYPT TO POSSESS BOTH BANKS OF SUEZ CANAL". FACT THAT US HAD TO CHANGE ITS EARLIER ONE-SIDED PRO-ISRAEL POLICY ALSO DUE TO CHANGE IN BALANCE OF POWER. "MORE CAREFUL ATTITUDE DISPLAYED THESE DAYS ON PART OF SOME MONOPOLY CAPITALIST CIRCLES AND THEIR POSING AS FRIENDS OF ARABS IS PARTLY AIMED AT WEAKENING TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THOSE ARAB COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES OF SOVIET UNION", EDITORIAL DECLARES. DAILY MAGYAR HIRLAP HEADLINED SAME STORY BUT WITH TASS LABEL.

3. EARLIER ON MARCH 7 POLITICAL WEEKLY MAGYAROSZAG, COMMENTING ON VISITS OF GROMYKO TO CAIRO AND DAMASCUS, UNDERScoreD SAME POINT RE CONSISTENCY OF SOVIET POLICY IN SUPPORT OF ARAB CUASE, OBSERVING AT SAME TIME THAT USSR'S RELATIONS TO EGYPT, SYRIA AND IRAQ AND OTHER STATES "ARE NOT THOSE OF INTEREST BUT ARE BASED ON COMMONLY-ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES OF A COMMON FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM". MAGYAROSZAG ADDED THAT "FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN POLICIES BECOMES EVIDENT RIGHT IN THESE PRINCIPLES". PERIODICAL CONSLUDED SOMEWHAT LAMELY THAT IF US MOVES SHOULD ADVANCE SETTLEMENT OF ME PROBLEMS, MOSCOW WILL FOLLOW KISSINGER'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH AGREEMENT. THIS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT MEAN PUTTING LABEL OF EQUALITY ON TWO POLICIES BECAUSE "IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT ANY CHANGE FOR GOOD OF PROGRESSIVE ARAB STATES - EVEN IF CARRIED OUT THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUDAPE 00570 111138Z

AMERICAN MEDIATION ON SURFACE - IS INSEPARABLE FROM CONSISTENT PEACE POLICY OF USSR AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES".

4. DURING PAST WEEK PRESS ATTENTION TO ME HAS FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON GROMYKO'S TALKS IN CARIO AND DAMASCUS. ARTICLES CITED ABOVE SEEM TO INDICATE SOVIET UNAHPPINESS OVER FAVORABLE WORLD PUBLICITY SURROUNDING SECRETARY'S ME SUCCESSES AND PRESUMABLY ARE DESIGNED TO

COUNTER IMPRESSION THAT BALL HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM
SOVIETS IN ME FRAY AND TO UNDERSCORE THAT ON CONTRARY,
SOVIETS AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES VERY MUCH IN POSSESSION.
IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS WISH TO RE-EMPHASIZE THEIR
DESIRE FOR MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ME DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL
AS TO PROTECT THEIR SPECIAL POSITION WITH ARAB SOCIALIST
REGIMES. HUNGARIAN ATTEMPT TO DENIGRATE US EFFORT AND
SUCCESES, HOWEVER, MAY REDOUND DISADVANTAGES OF SOVIETS
AND REGIME IN HUNGARY BECAUSE MORE LIKELY THAN NOT IT
WILL DRAW INCREASED ATTENTION TO MOSCOW'S CONCERN
THAT IT S INFLUENCE IN ME MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT ERODED
AS RESULT OF SECRETARY'S RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THAT AREA.
PEDERSEN

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